

New Program Approval  
Bachelor of Science in Nursing  
Kentucky State University

Action: The staff recommends that the council approve the Bachelor of Science in Nursing proposed by Kentucky State University.

The council staff recommends approval of this completion program based on evidence of:

- Student demand for the program.
- Demand for program graduates.
- KSU's ability to adequately fund the program with current resources by providing faculty, facilities, and other necessary financial support.

Of more than 1,000 registered nurses working in KSU's service area, fewer than 20 percent have completed a BSN degree. A survey of KSU associate degree nursing graduates showed that 50 percent would like to earn a baccalaureate degree in nursing. Many of the respondents expressed their preference for returning to KSU for that degree because of convenience and flexibility, economy, and familiarity.

Area clinical agency representatives indicate they would prefer to hire BSN graduates for head nurse, nurse manager, clinical nurse specialist, nurse supervisor, and director of nursing positions. Because of the scarcity of BSN graduates, these positions are being filled with associate degree graduates. KSU will meet the needs of commuting and non-traditional students by offering classes at convenient times---concentrated on one or two days a week. Clinical assignments will have flexible schedules.

Kentucky State University remains committed to the establishment and support of the proposed BSN program in spite of the announced state budget shortfall and its potential effect. No new funds are necessary for implementation of the program. The largest program expenditures will be for personnel. Separate faculties will be maintained for the associate and baccalaureate programs. A major first time equipment purchase will be handled through reallocation of internal funds.

In 1996, KSU proposed offering a Bachelor of Science in Nursing completion program. At that time, the council postponed consideration of the BSN until it had addressed KSU's enhancement as part of the *Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities* update process. The council agreed that the BSN proposal could be resubmitted based on KSU's 1996 EEO eligibility status (January 27, 1997, CHE Agenda).

Subsequently, in late July 2000, KSU posted a revised BSN proposal to the Kentucky Postsecondary Program Proposal System. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System, Lexington Community College, and the University of Kentucky responded supporting the program. KSU submitted the proposal for council review in March 2001.

The council staff will monitor student pass rates on nursing licensure exams for both the associate and baccalaureate completion programs.

An executive summary, prepared by KSU, is attached.

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Baccalaureate of Nursing Completion Program  
Kentucky State University

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1. Mission, Influence, Organization**

The proposed Baccalaureate of Nursing Completion Program (RN-to-Baccalaureate) is fully consistent with the University's mission and strategic plan. A portion of the Kentucky State University's revised mission (1993) reads: "The University shall offer associate, baccalaureate, pre-professional, professional, master's and education specialist programs oriented toward liberal studies, selected careers in state government, and demonstrated student interests and societal needs." The section of the mission statement under Strategic Directions/Program Priorities includes an associate and baccalaureate degree program in nursing. These statements are testimony to the integral relationship of the proposed program to the mission of Kentucky State University and the commitment of the University to the programs implementation and success.

Implementation of this program is feasible and does not create a problem of duplication. While other baccalaureate nursing programs exist in the Commonwealth, the health care system demands a registered nurse workforce with baccalaureate degrees prepared to function across sections, in systems managing and provide nursing service to individuals, families, groups, and populations. The emphasis in providing health care has begun to shift from hospitals to communities; from acute care to chronic care; from curative to primary care; and from individual client to the population perspective. According to the Division of Nursing of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, if these trends continue, rising demand will outstrip the supply of baccalaureate nurses, beginning in the year 2010. The Pew Health Professions Commission has called for a more concentrated production of bachelor's and higher degree nursing graduates. It is toward meeting these demands that the proposed Baccalaureate of Nursing Completion Program is directed. The program will be placed in the University's Department of Nursing within the College of Professional Studies.

**2. Program Description**

The Baccalaureate of Nursing Completion Program is designed to prepare the Associate Degree Registered Nurse at the baccalaureate level. The program will emphasize leadership, patient education case management and nursing care across a variety of community-based health care settings. The demographic changes in today's society have contributed to the future role of the nurse. The expected increase in the elderly population influenced the inclusion of the aging process and chronic illnesses in the organizing framework of the proposed curriculum. The content will also focus on issues of providing care for the 'vulnerable populations' including the homeless, those with chemical addictions, HIV/AIDS, the poor, and those with catastrophic illnesses.

The program, designed for completion in two years, will include flexible scheduling of one to two days a week course offerings. The total curriculum includes sixty-seven credit hours.

### 3. Supportive Data

The increase in the aging population, an increase in the number of hospitalized elderly, the rapid expansion of primary care at a variety of community-based sites, and the enormous number of technological changes requiring more highly skilled nursing care are a few of the influences that have created the increased need for baccalaureate prepared nurses. Locally, trends reflect national trends. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the nation's largest employer of registered nurses, announced in December of 1998, a national initiative to support its nursing work force. It has allocated \$50 million over the next five years to assist its nursing personnel to attain the baccalaureate (or higher) degree. It is estimated that more than 5,000 VA nurses are likely to return to school. Kentucky State University is within 50 miles of two Veteran hospitals and the proposed Baccalaureate completion program would assist in meeting the educational needs of the VA nursing personnel.

A review of the annual report from current registered nurse licensure count in the annual report the Kentucky Board of Nursing showed evidence of a need for an increase in baccalaureate prepared nurses. The RN Current Licensure Count for Franklin County and the Kentucky State University service areas are:

County	Nurse Educational Level		
	Diploma	ADN	BSN
Anderson	15	137	29
Franklin	51	212	79
Henry	15	61	19
Owen	11	46	10
Scott	30	152	69
Shelby	45	132	68

The proposed Baccalaureate Completion Program would assist in reshaping the mix of the basic registered nurse workforce for Franklin County and the other counties in the Kentucky State University service area.

An Articulation Agreement with the University of Kentucky College of Nursing is nearly completed. Kentucky residents completing the Baccalaureate Completion Program and meeting certain requirements, will be eligible for admission to ten openings annually in the University of Kentucky College of Nursing Master's program. In addition, the Department of Nursing will participate in the Kentucky Nursing Education Mobility Taskforce project in support of asynchronous methodologies. The purpose of the project is to expand the accessibility of existing distance education nursing courses by establishing a statewide consortium of public and private nursing programs supporting asynchronous methodologies.

#### **4. Resources**

The Baccalaureate Completion Program will be financed from current institutional funds, reallocations from Title III 1998-2002 funds, and tuition.